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Pres. Bundy, McGeorge*

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# Top Secret Topper

CPYRGHT

The phrase "top secret," used originally and still technically to designate official documents and objects with which only the most restricted circle of officials is to be familiar, has passed into the common speech as meaning anything unusually secret for any reason. "Secret" and "confidential," the other common official classifications for degrees of secrecy, were already in the basic vocabulary; and we recall no government outcry when "top secret" was claimed for the public domain.

But now, it appears, there are degrees of official secrecy that are so secret that even their classifications are secret. Or at least one of them was, until presidential advisor McGeorge Bundy let himself be photographed at the White House carrying a document marked "Top Secret Dinar." The CIA, whose document it was, quickly rechristened the classification, with some rather sharp comments on the episode.

But about the only secret let out of the bag, as we see it, was that the CIA has so many secrets it has had to think up funny names for them (we wonder: Is there also a "Top Secret Lira," a "Top Secret Yen," a "Top Secret Ha'penny"?). Everybody pretty well figured that anyway.